

BIG FOUR ARE SILENT AFTER TREATY TALK

Pacific Agreement and Japan's
Reply Likely Taken Up
at Conference.

By RALPH COURTNEY.
Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 8.
The first full meeting to discuss the terms of a proposed four power treaty between America, Britain, France and Japan was held this afternoon in Washington. Absolute silence is maintained as to the results of this conference, and even the fact that it took place is not officially admitted by the delegates.

Mr. Balfour first paid a preliminary visit to Secretary Hughes this afternoon and subsequently all four heads of the principal delegations met for general discussion. Secretary Hughes attended on behalf of America, Mr. Balfour for Britain, M. Viviani for France and Admiral Kato for Japan.

Presumably the big four not only discussed the proposed Pacific treaty but also the Japanese reply on the naval ratio. It is understood that a message announcing the despatch of this reply as well as a summary of its contents has already reached Washington, although the full text was not expected until a late hour to-night.

Both England and Japan are understood fully to accept the principle of the four power treaty, but it seems that their final signature depends on reaching a satisfactory agreement concerning capital ships and also possibly submarines.

The French allow it to be understood that they are favorably disposed toward the treaty, but can take no definite stand before a reply has been received from Paris. After M. Viviani's interview with Secretary Hughes yesterday, when the proposed terms of the alliance were officially notified to the French, a long cable was sent to the French Government. The Quai d'Orsay is now discussing the matter and a reply is expected in Washington either to-morrow or on Saturday at the latest.

The impression appears to exist in conference circles that the four power agreement now under discussion is in itself nothing more than a kind of arbitration treaty, which is thought to be the most acceptable to the Senate and something on which all are likely to agree.

On the other hand, the Japanese reply on the naval ratio is understood to be not quite so satisfactory. A number of details still remain to be unsettled, but every possibility of an understanding is said now to exist.

GOV. EDWARDS TO SPEAK.
Gov. Edwards will speak to-day at the formal opening of the Salvation Army Door of Hope Home and Hospital for Women, at Gardfield and Armstrong avenues, Jersey City.

THEODORE ADOR.
MARONAC FALLS, Dec. 8.—Theodore Ador, former appraiser of lands for the State and the city of New York, died at his home here to-day. He was 63 years old.

ANGLO-JAPANESE TREATY ABROGATED

Continued from First Page.

four, M. Viviani, Prince Tokugawa and Senator Schanzler have submitted by cable to their respective Governments drafts of at least three proposals with an equal number of alternatives. The tardiness of the Tokyo Government in announcing its decision on the Hughes naval formula is providing the representatives of other countries with an opportunity for canvassing the views of each other and their own Governments as to the shape, scope and effect of treaties, agreements or understandings which will most prove effective in settling naval and Far Eastern problems of major importance.

Up to to-night the service of the Pacific cables had not improved sufficiently to transmit the ultimate decision of the Imperial Council composed of Elder Statesmen, who will finally decide the naval issue. The delay naturally provokes endless discussion of alleged motives lying behind the matter.

Critics of Japan are inclined to credit the Mikado's Government with "holding up" its consent to the naval agreement until satisfactory assurances have been received regarding the fortification of islands in the Pacific. This may or may not be true, but American naval officials seem to think they have reason to justify the version they advance to explain the Japanese attitude. It is that Japan will try to drive as hard a bargain with the United States as it can expect to bring about the disarmament of American naval bases, including the Hawaiian Islands, which are in fact a part of the continental territorial system of this country.

Criticism of Japanese delay in sending its consent to the adoption of the Hughes formula by the conference is not confined to American naval officials by any means. Some of the most influential men in Japan or here in Washington do not hesitate to declare the policy pursued by the Japanese delegates (presumably under instruction from Tokyo) is rapidly dissipating the favorable impression made by the latter during the early stages of the conference.

Dilatory Policy Attacked.
Viscount Kato, the leader of the Kensei-Kai (opposition party), vigorously attacked the policy followed at Washington in a speech in Japan yesterday. He asserted that the Japanese policy at Washington was again directing suspicion against the motives behind them.

American delegates accord the most sincerity of purpose to the Japanese delegates, and continue to express their confidence that the Tokyo Government will decide the question of naval ratios on its merits and regardless of its seeming relation to other phases of conference undertakings. They assert that no formal proposal for making acceptance of the naval agreement contingent upon the settlement of Far Eastern issues has been made by the Japanese delegates, and say none is expected.

The favorite occupation of delegations, advisers and observers has to do with fascinating but unsubstantial speculation as to the forms of international instruments to be employed. All rules of reason, logic and application are invoked to prove that a treaty will be negotiated to govern, in the matter of naval ratios, between Great Britain, France, Japan, the United States, and possibly Italy, as these countries constitute the five leading naval Powers of the world.

Division of opinion as to the methods to be used in adjusting the international aspects of Far Eastern problems roams far afield, ranging from a blanket proposal to be signed by all of the Powers holding interests in Asia and the Pacific to individual treaties negotiated between China on the one hand and the other interested nations on the other.

One guess as to the probable form and scope of these treaties or understandings is as good as another because official discussion of them is denied and the exact trend toward final conclusions guarded with the utmost care.

That the machinery of the conference is functioning efficiently was pretty well established by developments to-day. The Far Eastern committee and its subordinate bodies devoted several hours to discussing various phases of the Chinese puzzle and the American delegates held a protracted session this afternoon. The former yielded substantial results which were announced in a communiqué, but none was forthcoming regarding the subjects discussed and the conclusions reached at the conference of the representatives of this committee.

The most important decision at the conference of the Far Eastern committee was the adoption of a resolution pledging all the countries represented at the conference not to enter into any treaties or agreements among themselves that might impair the provisions of the four clauses in the Root resolution setting forth the general principles to be observed in rehabilitating China.

The resolution declares specifically against the extension by foreign nations of further other spheres of influence or seeking the lease of new territory. The decision is of tremendous importance in moving toward the

manipulation of China because it strikes at the very root of most of the evils that have rendered China a helpless pawn in the hands of foreign nations which for years have been engaged in exploiting instead of developing her resources.

With the resolution as the basis for specific undertakings designed to improve the condition of China, delegates of America, and those of most of the European countries, believe the way has been provided to solve the most vexatious Asiatic problems. The whole Asiatic atmosphere for the moment has been to a very large extent clarified and only the arbitrary assertion of selfish and perhaps vicious ambitions can cloud the promising sky.

With the two ancient Oriental rivals directly facing each other in an attempt to compose their differences over Shantung, hope about evenly balanced expectations as to the result. The "conversations" between the Japanese and Chinese delegates over the disputed Kiaow-Chow district have progressed for a week without casualties beyond the resignation of four advisers of the Pekin delegation.

The Japanese enjoy a decided advantage in that they have not been subjected to the fusillade of denunciation and threats that have been the portion of their Chinese conferees. The latter have been exposed to a continuous bombardment of cables from China and verbal attacks at the American capital. The whole of the Chinese Empire seems to have been plunged into a state of hysterics by misleading reports cabled from Washington to Pekin and Shanghai.

These garbled versions of the negotiations between the Japanese and Chinese delegates were of the sort calculated to react unfavorably on the surcharged emotions of the Chinese. The substance of the reports was that the Chinese delegates had defied public sentiment at home by resuming direct negotiations over Shantung, which the Chinese abandoned a year ago.

Dr. Koo, Minister Sze and their associates did not agree to anything of the sort. They merely complied with a suggestion made by Secretary Hughes and Mr. Balfour that they participate in "informal conversations" with the Japanese delegates to see if it was not possible to compose their differences over Kiaow-Chow. Secretary Hughes and Mr. Balfour made it clear that the processes suggested by them were purely informal and that failure to agree over terms of restitution would not close the door of the conference on the subject.

Reports sent to China did not say this. The result was that most of the inhabitants of Pekin, Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow and other large cities abandoned their ordinary routine pursuits on Monday last, harbored a lot of fat pigs and proceeded to express disapproval of their delegates to the Washington conference in choice Oriental invectives which are not only comprehensive, but highly offensive.

For the last day or two Chinese delegates have been trying to convey proper understanding to the minds of their critics. Latest advices from China are to the effect that the excitement has slightly abated, but still ferment and threatens to break out with increased vigor unless the delegates from that country fall in line and satisfy the home demand for scraps of their Japanese conferees.

The backfire from home has naturally rendered the efforts of the Chinese delegates to reach a satisfactory agreement with the Japanese exceedingly difficult, and to have practically forced them into projecting the Shantung controversy into the conference for final consideration.

The effect of the proposal to let China run her own tariff system has likewise caused considerable excitement among Japanese business men who have exploited the Chinese market under conditions most favorable and profitable to them for many years.

Japanese manufacturers and merchants are apprehensive the Chinese Government will erect custom barriers that will pay off some of the old scores against their country and lose them a lot of trade not only in China proper but in Manchuria, Mongolia and Siberia. There seems to be some basis for their apprehension on this score if predictions from Chinese sources are correct. American and European delegates, while optimistic concerning the ultimate results of their efforts to put China on her feet, are constrained to admit that there are many objects in the way due to old animosities.

With the naval problem out of the way, they will move directly to consideration of events on the Far Eastern agenda. They believe they have grounds for their optimism. Evidence of this is provided by the activities of several important bankers and business men of Japan now in this country. These men have initiated discussion for a new consortium to provide China with a stable financial system and at the same time insure repayment of the immense sums advanced by Japanese interests to promote Chinese undertakings.

HAWAII AN OBSTACLE IN NAVAL RATIO PLAN

U. S. Asserts Station Is Not an
Advanced Base, but Part
of American Defence.

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New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 8.

Japanese delegates to the arms conference are informally discussing the relationship of naval bases in the Pacific in connection with the acceptance of the naval ratio of 5-5-3 proposed by Secretary Hughes. That question is the stumbling block to formal acceptance by Japan of the naval ratio and is proving a difficult problem.

Reports that Japan has formally accepted the naval ratio proposal are not credited, although there is no doubt that the viewpoint of the Tokyo Government has been made plain to its delegates here in the interchange of views over the cables, which appear to be suffering from diplomatic congestion.

Connected with the discussion of naval bases which Japan has raised, is the subject of the general understanding as to the Far East, which will be included in the "final act" of the conference and which will represent the entire structure of its accomplishments.

Information on the subject of this plan is more general than that relating to naval bases. Concerning the latter, Japan takes the position that if she accepts the proposed ratio she must be free in every respect from the danger of attack, and Japanese advisers profess to fear the growth of an Anglo-American Entente after the abrogation of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, which is a foregone conclusion if the conference is to be a success.

The Hawaiian question furnishes a bone of contention in itself. While the American delegation is maintaining an attitude of complete silence on this subject it is well known that American technical advisers maintain that the Hawaiian station is part of America's defense system, and is not to be placed in the status of an "advanced base." Their viewpoint is that it is essential for the defence of the Pacific coast and for the Panama Canal and that the latter is a world asset as well as an asset of the United States.

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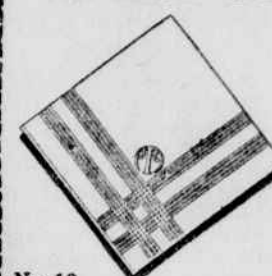
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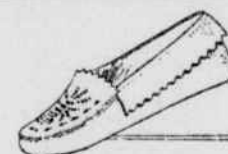
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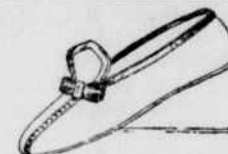
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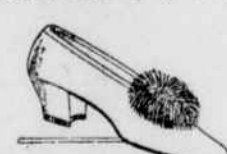
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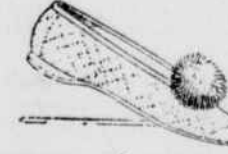
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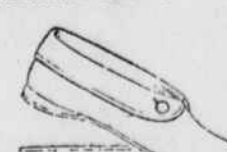
A Black Satin Boudoir Slipper, quite conservative enough to wear with a house frock, assures its snugness of fit by an inset of elastic beneath a black silk pom-pom on the instep. Low Cuban heel and leather sole . . . 3.50



Dainty Quilted Satin Boudoir Slippers, satin lined and with either the flexible comfy sole, or leather sole with low leather heel; trimmed with a silk pom-pom. In soft shades of rose, blue, lavender and pink, as well as black . . . 2.75



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